

Mayor's Column for the June 29, 2011 Review

There is a great sadness throughout Evansville. We have lost a kind, generous, loyal, and intelligent friend. Deb Olsen was a special person who loved her hometown. She was a pillar of strength in our school system.

There will be a tremendous void in many of our hearts and in the soul of our community. Deb will be sorely missed. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.

* * *

The coming days are filled with activities in Evansville. I have listed some of them below. As you plan your holiday week, enjoy the local events that are offered.

On Thursday, June 30, there will be a book talk on the controversial One Book One Town reading selection, "Three Cups of Tea", authored by Greg Mortenson. It will be held at Eager Free Public Library at 6:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

The 15th annual Eager Free Public Library Ice Cream Social will be held on Friday, July 1, from 6 to 8 p.m. on the Library lawn.

The Festival Tent at Lake Leota opens on Friday night, July 1, at 5 p.m. The BriTins, a Beatles tribute band, will play beginning at 8:00 p.m. There will be fireworks at dusk.

The grand opening of our new community/senior center, Creekside Place, will occur on Saturday, July 2, from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. There will be a free pancake breakfast from 7:30 to 10:00 a.m. and a flag dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony at 10:00 a.m.

The Evansville Farmer's Market will open early at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, July 2, on East Church Street at Creekside Place.

July 2 activities at Lake Leota begin at noon. The John Masino Band will be on stage at 3:00 p.m. and Cold Sweat & The Brew City Horns will return at 8:00 p.m.

On Sunday, July 3, there will be an ecumenical church service in the Park at 9:00 a.m. There will be a car show from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Evansville Idol Karaoke will take the stage from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Rachelle & The Red Hot Rattlers will provide country sounds from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. The popular Evansville Youth Center dunk tank will return. There will be a pool party at the Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.

July 4 will begin with the Aunt Leota Grove Chase Fun Run at 8:00 a.m. The Kiddie Parade will begin at 9:45 a.m. to be followed by the 4th Parade at 10:00 a.m. The Lions Club Chicken Barbeque begins at 11:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The Evansville Youth Center Ducky Derby will occur at 1:00 p.m. The Lake Leota Lunker Lob is scheduled for 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. New this year will be minnow races from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. There

will be special Aquatic Center hours of 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. for the day. The Evansville Jays will play Home Talent Baseball from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. Music includes Rolling Rock from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and Westside Andy & the Mel Ford Band from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. July 4th fireworks at dusk with a special finale!

* * *

I have been extremely honored and humbled to receive a trio of public official awards this spring. On May 17, I received a Wisconsin Women in Government Woman of Achievement Award, along with former Dane County Executive Kathleen Falk and former Fitchburg Mayor and Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of Madison Area Technical College Frances Huntley-Cooper. Specifically mentioned at the award ceremony at Monona Terrace were my activities in historic preservation and energy conservation.

I was selected as the recipient of the American Public Power Association's Spence Vanderlinden Public Official Award. The criteria for the award included "developing and improving the community's reputation and stature" as a public power community with proper protection of the environment, as well as enhancing APPA's national prestige.

I have been notified that I was selected to receive the Municipal Electrical Utilities of Wisconsin 2011 Phillip J. LaFollette Public Official Award for demonstrating commitment to public power ideals at the local, state, and federal levels.

These awards belong to you, the people of Evansville. Abraham Lincoln stated: "Public sentiment is everything. With public sentiment, nothing can fail. Without it, nothing can succeed." I have given my best efforts to lead at the direction and desire of Evansville residents. Community interest in preservation and energy independence direct my continuing advocacy in these areas. These awards recognize your commitment.

Our community's historic preservation activities began decades ago, in the 1970s. Evansville has the second oldest historic district in Wisconsin, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978. Through the recent efforts of committed business owners and hundreds of volunteers, the Madison Trust for Historic Preservation has recognized the Eager Economy Building and Baker Office Building with restoration awards.

Property owners continue to historically restore their buildings, making additional investments in our downtown. I was asked to speak about historic preservation in Evansville at the Wisconsin Historical Society Annual Conference held in Wausau in 2009. Two additional potential residential historic districts are currently being reviewed by the National Park Service for listing on the National Register. Lake Leota Park is nominated for listing on the National Register as a designed landscape.

A 2001 community identity conference concluded that the core identity for Evansville includes the Grove of tree-lined streets, well appointed homes, and green space; Lake Leota and the Park; and historic factors of houses, our downtown, and architecture. My preservation advocacy mirrors the community desires and activities over the years.

Evansville's growing stature as a state energy leader is likewise due to you. When I first ran for mayor in 2006, there was never a discussion of energy conservation and independence during campaigning. As I learned about the Evansville Initiative, our annual energy fair, the Grove Community School Forest, the high mileage vehicle club, and numerous other energy initiatives, I came to understand the community interest in energy. I have been asked on many occasions to speak about Evansville's energy initiatives. Our community is used as an example of the variety of projects/activities that can occur with local energy awareness.

When I speak to groups about local preservation and energy initiatives, I always state that I am a very lucky mayor. I point out the community support that makes possible our recognized successes. Thank you, Evansville! I am proud to be your mayor.

Community Announcements

There will be a special Common Council meeting on Wednesday, July 6, at 7:00 p.m. at City Hall to adopt a local redistricting ordinance.

Eager Free Public Library is supporting ongoing Bird City Wisconsin activities in Evansville by boosting the local collection of bird habitat materials. Examples include "The Backyard Bird Lover's Ultimate How-To Guide: Tips for a Bird-Friendly Backyard"; "From A to Z for the Birds: A Month-by-Month Guide to Attracting Birds to Your Backyard"; and "Birdscaping for Garden Spaces". City Librarian Kathi Kemp reports that the new bird habitat books are all currently checked out by patrons.

Community Congratulations/Thanks

Evansville congratulates Julie Hermanson on being selected a Community Hero by the South Central Wisconsin Chapter of the American Red Cross. Julie was recognized for her outstanding work through AWARE in Evansville.

Congratulations to the EHS Class of 2011! Our community wishes for you the accomplishment of your many hopes and dreams.

Our community thanks the EHS National Honor Society for sponsoring a Cystic Fibrosis Walk last month which raised \$1200 for research.